

International Table Tennis Federation

Annual General Meeting - 2003

Minutes

of the Annual General Meeting of members of the International Table Tennis Federation held on Wednesday **21st May 2003**, at the Sofitel Forum Rive Gauche Hotel, Paris, France, at 09.00.

1. Welcome and opening address

Mr. Gérard Velten, President of the French Table Tennis Federation welcomed the assembly to Paris and thanked the members for having entrusted the French Federation with the organisation of the 47th Liebherr World Table Tennis Championships. Mr. Adham Sharara welcomed all members and guests invited to attend the meeting including delegates from ATHOC, ASOIF and the IOC. The President distributed several gifts as tokens of appreciation to members of the Organising Committee as well as equipment sponsors of the event.

2. Appointment of Chairman of Meeting

Mr. Adham Sharara was appointed Chairman of the Meeting.

3. Roll call and verification of proxies

The President took the roll call and verified the proxies. A total number of **129** Associations were present in addition to **13** proxies for a total of **142** votes.

4. Constitution in effect

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that the revised Constitution approved at the Zagreb AGM in April 2002 would be in effect from the beginning of this AGM. A copy of the revised constitution was distributed to all.

5. Appointment of scrutineers

The President appointed scrutineers (2 from each Continent) from nominations provided by the Continental Federations.

6. Presentations

6.1 Merit Awards

The ITTF Merit Award was presented to the following individuals:

Mr. Ivam Passos Vinhas (BRA), Mr. Henrik Pedersen (DEN), Ms Claude Bergeret (FRA) and Mr. M. C. Chowhan (IND).

6.2 Athens 2004 Progress Report

Mr. Spiros Capralos, Executive Director of ATHOC, gave a comprehensive update report on the progress of the organisation in Athens. He said that the co-operation between the ITTF, the IOC and the Greek government were excellent and that he was confident that the Games would be very successful. All major challenges such as building a new sports hall for table tennis (the Galatsi Olympic Hall), improving the urban environment to make Athens more attractive and functional were going according to plan. He confirmed that the Hellas Open (Pro Tour Event) to be held between 28th of January and 1st February 2004 would be the test event where 250 athletes would compete. He also introduced the Athens mascots Phebos and Athena.

6.3 2006 World Championships

Mr. Adham Sharara announced that the Association of Serbia & Montenegro, in order to keep the unity in Europe, had withdrawn its candidature to host the 2006 World Championships. Therefore, Bremen, Germany, if approved by the AGM, would host the WTTC in 2006. Members of the German delegation, including the mayor of Bremen, presented the city and assured the assembly that all efforts would be deployed to host a very successful event.

7. Minutes of previous General Meeting (Zagreb, April 2002)

The Minutes of the previous General Meeting held in Zagreb, Croatia, on 5th April 2002 were signed by the President as a true record of the Meeting.

8. Report of Nomination Committee (Standing Orders) (document A19)

The Chairman of the Nomination Committee (former Standing Orders Committee) explained the procedures for forming the committee and gave the lists of newly appointed candidates for all committees.

9. Membership applications

(East Timor, Kosovo, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Niger and Tuvalu)

The membership applications from **East Timor, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi and Niger** were accepted unanimously.

It was explained that the application from Tuvalu had been handed in one month late but the AGM could decide to accept it or refuse the application. **Tuvalu** was accepted unanimously.

It was explained that **Kosovo**, which was now under the authority of the UN, had applied for membership to the ITTF as an independent Association. Kosovo was accepted with more than 75% majority of votes.

The number of member Associations now totals **195**.

10. Executive Committee Reports

10.1 President - A. Sharara (document A1)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.2 Deputy President - P. Albertini (document A2)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.3 Executive Vice President - G. Segun (document A3)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.4 Executive Vice President - N. Bergström (document A4)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.5 Executive Vice President - Yang Shuan (document A5)

The report was accepted as presented.

10.6 Executive Vice President (Finance) - Han Sang Kook (document A6)

The report was accepted as presented with detailed explanations to be given under item 14 of the agenda.

11. Continental Vice Presidents' Reports

11.1 Africa (document A7)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Hajem explained that Africa had done its best to apply the P4 Plan within the Continent.

11.2 Asia (document A8)

The report was accepted as presented.

- 11.3 Europe (document A9)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 11.4 Latin America (document A10)**
The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Ranga Ramanujan congratulated the President of the LATTU for his excellent report, which gave a detailed account of the situation in Latin America, the assessment of talented players, and a financial report.
- 11.5 North America (document A11)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 11.6 Oceania (document A12)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 12. Executive Director's Report (document A13)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 13. Reports from Committees and Commissions**
- 13.1 Equipment (document A14)**
The report was accepted as presented. The delegate from the Congo Democratic Republic insisted on the fact that there was very little equipment available in some African countries and said that the ITTF should make efforts to have cheaper equipment manufactured in Africa.
- 13.2 Media (document A15)**
The report was accepted as presented. It was reported that 400 registered journalists were present at the WTTC.
- 13.3 Ranking (document A16)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 13.4 Rules (document A17)**
The report was accepted as presented with the additional information that international referee examinations had been held in Athens and Courmayeur since the publication of the report.
- 13.5 Sports science (document A18)**
The report was accepted as presented. Dr. Jean-François Kahn informed that the 3rd Congress for racket sports had taken place successfully in Paris on 17th – 19th May 2003.
- 13.6 Technical (document A20)**
The report was accepted as presented. The delegate from the Congo Democratic Republic asked the Technical Committee to find ways to ensure that weaker teams play more matches during the WTTC.
- 13.7 Umpires & Referees (document A21)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 13.8 Athletes' Commission (document A22)**
The report was accepted as presented.
- 13.9 Junior Commission (document A23)**

The report was accepted as presented. The Chairman of the Junior Commission made a vote of thanks to sponsors, ranking committee, Olympic Solidarity, host countries of Junior events and all those who have supported the programme and contributed to making it such a successful one. He confirmed that the First World Junior Championships would take place in Santiago, Chile, from 14-21 December 2003.

13.10 Olympic Commission (document A24)

The report was accepted as presented. Mr. Adham Sharara announced that 8 table tennis players were receiving aid from Olympic Solidarity in preparation for the Olympic Games.

14. Financial Statements

14.1 Auditors

Mr. Adham Sharara explained that the previous auditors of the ITTF (BDO Dunwoody) had changed affiliation and in order to have more sports experienced auditors, the ITTF had decided to hire the services of Price Waterhouse Coopers who were also the auditors of the IOC and other sports Federations in Lausanne. The assembly unanimously approved the change of auditors for 2002.

14.2 Audited Financial Statements

The financial statements audited by Price Waterhouse Coopers were approved as presented.

14.3 Financial Report

Through a detailed visual (PowerPoint) presentation Mr. Jordi Serra explained the financial report and clarified issues derived from the Financial Statements and the report presented by Mr. Han Sang Kook, Executive Vice-President (Finance). He explained that in order to better manage the Olympic Fund and to have advance knowledge of the amounts to be received by the ITTF, and the amounts to be distributed to the Continental Federations; the Executive Committee will propose a transition period 2003-2008 (2003 adjusted, 2004 adjusted, 2005-2008 quadrennial) in which the Olympic income will be divided into a 5 or 6 year period. After this period it would be possible to revert back to a quadrennial distribution starting with the year following the Olympic Games (2009-2012). Since the Olympic Income is received at the end of the Olympic year, this new system would provide for better budgeting and better use of the Olympic Fund.

14.4 Appoint Auditors for 2003

Price Waterhouse Coopers were appointed auditors for 2003.

15. Propositions and Resolutions (document A26)

Requires a majority of 2/3 of votes cast

1. Proposed by China

1.19

That any change to the Laws agreed at an AGM lapse at the end of the following season unless confirmed by a vote at the next AGM.

WITHDRAWN.

2. Proposed by China 1.19

That any rule change proposition not accepted by an AGM cannot be re-submitted at the next AGM.

This would mean that two successive AGMs could not review propositions having the same content.

DEFEATED.

Requires a majority of 3/4 of votes cast

3. Proposed by the Equipment Committee 2.4.3.1

That the upper limit of density of the pimples on pimped rubber be reduced from 50/sq cm to 30/sq cm.

This would bring the law (and the Technical leaflet) into line with the types of rubber currently available; none of which has a pimple density greater than 28/sq cm.

ACCEPTED

Addendum

- Proposed by the Technical Committee 2.5.7

That the ball may be struck only with the racket.

This would make it illegal for the ball to be struck with the racket hand, which is at present legal.

DEFEATED.

Addendum

- Proposed by the Technical Committee

That the requirement for the ball in service to be projected "without imparting spin" be deleted.

This would eliminate the need for the umpire to make the difficult decision whether or not the ball is spinning when thrown upwards.

DEFEATED.

4. Proposed by China 2.6.2

That the ball in service must be projected from below the level of the server's shoulder and must rise to above the server's head.

Proposition 4 combined with proposition 5.

5. Proposed by Germany 2.6.2

That the ball in service must be projected so that it rises above the height of the server's head or by at least 50 cm, whichever is greater.

Propositions 4 and 5 were combined and this amendment was accepted. The propositions was to read:

That the ball in service must be projected from below the level of the shoulder and must rise at least 50 cm above the server's head.

DEFEATED.

6. Proposed by the Rules Committee and the Executive Committee 2.6.4

From the start of service until it is struck, the ball shall be above the level of the playing surface and behind the server's end line, and it shall not be hidden from the receiver and the umpire by the server or his doubles partner or by anything they wear or carry.

This would make clear that the serving player or pair must not hide the ball from the receiver or the umpire with any part of the body, clothing or a racket.

WITHDRAWN.

7. Proposed by the Executive Committee 2.6.4

As soon as the ball has been projected, the server's free arm must be immediately removed from the area between the server's body and the net.

ACCEPTED with the removal of the word "immediately" which is implicit by the wording "As soon as"

8. Proposed by the Rules Committee 2.6.5.1 – 2.6.5.3

A clearly illegal service must always be penalised, but an umpire who suspects, but is not certain, that a service is illegal can on the first occasion in a match declare a let and warn the serving player or pair that any subsequent service of doubtful legality by that player or pair will result in a point to the receiver.

This would allow the umpire to warn a player or pair once for a service of doubtful legality, whether or not an assistant umpire had been appointed.

ACCEPTED.

9. Proposed by Poland 2.6.3, 2.9.1.1

That in a good service the ball may touch the net assembly while passing over or around it.

This would mean that the ball touching the net assembly would be treated in the same way in service as in a return and would not make the rally a let. The object is to eliminate disputes about whether or not the ball touched.

DEFEATED.

10. Proposed by Finland and the Rules Committee 2.10.1.6

That no point is scored for an accidental double hit.

As for the previous proposition, the object is to eliminate a possible source of dispute; an intentional double hit would be immediately obvious.

DEFEATED.

11. Proposed by China 2.11

That a game be won by the player or pair first to score 21 points unless each has scored 20 points, when the game shall be won by the player or pair first gaining subsequently a lead of 2 points.

This would mean reverting to the 21 point game format, on the grounds that 11 point games result in simple and aggressive attacks, which make play less exciting.

WITHDRAWN.

16. Future World Championships

16.1 Update 2004 Doha

Delegates from the Qatar Table Tennis Association gave a detailed account of the progress in the organisation of the WTTC in Doha. In answer to the delegate from Israel about visas for the Israeli delegation, it was said that Qatar would issue visas to all delegations according to the agreement signed with the ITTF and that there would be a special committee in charge of visa issues. Mr. Chérif Hajem thanked the Qatar Association for their efforts and said it was good promotion for the entire Arab world.

16.2 Update 2005 Shanghai

Delegates from the Shanghai Organising Committee made a detailed progress report and confirmed that all efforts were being made to make the 2005 WTTC in Shanghai a success. The Shanghai WTTC would take place from April 30th to May 6 2005.

16.3 Selection for 2006

Bremen was selected unanimously to host the WTTC in 2006.

16.4 Bids for 2007 and 2008

Mr. Jordi Serra said that the bid documents for hosting the 2007 and 2008 World Championships had been sent out and the deadlines for submitting applications were:

for 2007 – 1st September 2003

for 2008 – 1st September 2004.

He informed that Stockholm, Sweden was intending to bid for the 2007 event.

17. Election of Board of Directors

The Board of Directors was elected as presented by the Nomination Committee for a period of two years, with the proviso that the nomination of Mr. Jorge Herrera (GUA) for Latin America be endorsed by the Guatemala Table Tennis Federation.

18. Election of Committees

Mr. Yuri Posevin, Chairman of the Nomination Committee presented the members of the Committees. The item was referred to the Board of Directors for final decision.

19. Election of Executive Committee

19.1 President

Mr. Adham Sharara (CAN) was re-elected President by acclamation

19.2 Deputy President

Mr. Pierre Albertini (FRA) was re-elected Deputy President by acclamation.

19.3 Executive Vice President (Finance)

Mr. Han Sang Kook (KOR) was re-elected Executive Vice President (Finance) by acclamation.

19.4 Executive Vice Presidents (3)

Mr. George Segun (NGR), Mr. Yang Shuan (CHN) and Mr. Nils Bergström (SWE) were re-elected Executive Vice-Presidents by acclamation.

19.5 Executive Vice President (Woman)

Judit Faragó (HUN) was elected first woman Executive Vice-President of the ITTF by acclamation.

20. Election of Continental Vice Presidents

The Continental Vice-Presidents were elected as presented:

Asia: Mr. Khalil Al-Mohannadi (Qatar)

Africa: Mr. Chérif Hajem (Tunisia)

Europe: Mr. Stefano Bosi (Italy)

Latin America: Mr. Miguel Delgado (Guatemala)

North America: Mr. Aly Salam (USA)

Oceania: Mr. Neil Harwood (Australia)

21. Next AGM – Doha, March 2004

The next AGM will be held between the 1st and 7th of March 2004 during the World Championships, in Doha, Qatar.

22. Any other business

- Mr. Glenn Tepper, Development Manager of the ITTF, showed a video of a grassroots programme called ISHRAQ that had been held in Egypt.
- The delegate from Jamaica thanked Mr. Roman Plese, ITTF Coach, for the great work he did in Jamaica and requested more opportunities for forming coaches in Jamaica.
- Mr. Rabee Al Turk thanked the Executive Committee, Executive Council and staff for their dedicated work.

23. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 16:25.

Adham Sharara, Meeting Chairman

Associations present at 2003 AGM (129)

Albania	Ghana	Panama
Algeria	Greece	Pakistan
Angola	Guernsey	Paraguay
Armenia	Guinea	Peru
Australia	Haiti	Poland
Austria	Hong Kong	Portugal
Azerbaijan	Hungary	Qatar
Bahrain	Iceland	Romania
Barbados	India	Russia
Belarus	Indonesia	Rwanda
Belgium	Iran I. R.	San Marino
Benin	Ireland	Saudi Arabia
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Israel	Scotland
Botswana	Italy	Senegal
Brazil	Ivory Coast	Serbia & Montenegro
Brunei	Jamaica	Seychelles
Bulgaria	Japan	Singapore
Burkina Faso	Jersey	Slovak Rep
Burundi	Kazakhstan	Slovenia
Cambodia	Kenya	Somalia
Cameroon	Korea Rep	South Africa
Canada	Kuwait	Spain
Central Africa	Latvia	Sri Lanka
Chile	Lebanon	St Lucia
China	Libya	Sudan
Chinese Taipei	Liechtenstein	Sweden
Colombia	Lithuania	Switzerland
Congo B	Luxembourg	Syria
Congo D. R.	Macao	Tahiti
Costa Rica	Macedonia	Togo
Croatia	Madagascar	Trinidad & Tobago
Cyprus	Malaysia	Tunisia
Czech Rep.	Maldives	Turkey
Denmark	Malta	Turkmenistan
Ecuador	Mauritius	Uganda
Egypt	Monaco	Ukraine
El Salvador	Morocco	United Arab Emirates
England	Netherlands	USA
Estonia	Netherlands Antilles	Uzbekistan
Finland	New Caledonia	Venezuela
France	New Zealand	Vietnam
Gabon	Norway	Wales
Germany	Nigeria	Yemen

Proxies (13)

Bolivia	Namibia	Tajikistan
Fiji	Nepal	Thailand
Greenland	Niue	Vanuatu
Kiribati	Oman	
Kyrgyzstan	Solomon Islands	